

What is claimed is:

1. A method for generating electronic keys from two integers a, b, the method comprising a step of verifying the co-primeness of said numbers a, b, which includes the following operations:

A) - calculating the modular exponentiation $a^{\lambda(b)} \bmod b$, where λ is the Carmichael function,

B) - verifying that this modular exponentiation is equal to 1,

C) - retaining the pair a, b when equality is verified, and

D) - reiterating operations A and B with another pair of numbers when the modular expansion is not equal to 1.

2. A method for generating electronic keys according to Claim 1, wherein:

- an integer number b with a given length is chosen and is stored in memory,

- an integer number a is drawn at random,

- $a^{\lambda(b)} \bmod b$ is calculated,

- it is verified that $a^{\lambda(b)} = 1 \bmod b$ (or $a^{\lambda(b)} \bmod b = 1$),

- the number a is stored in memory in the case where equality is verified,

- the above steps are reiterated with another number a when equality is not verified.

3. A method for generating electronic keys according to Claim 1, wherein the number b is predetermined, and the value $\lambda(b)$ is calculated in advance and stored in memory.

4. The method of claim 1 further including the steps of encrypting and/or decrypting information by means of a public key cryptography protocol, using said integers as the encryption and decryption keys.

5. A method for generating RSA or El Gamal or Schnorr cryptographic keys, comprising the steps of:

A) - selecting two integers a , b as candidates for the keys;

B) - calculating the modular exponentiation $a^{\lambda(b)} \bmod b$, where λ is the Carmichael function,

10 C) - verifying that this modular exponentiation is equal to 1,

D) - retaining the pair a , b when equality is verified, and

E) - reiterating steps B and C with another pair of numbers when the modular expansion is not equal to 1.

15 6. A portable electronic device comprising an arithmetic processor and an associated program memory that are capable of effecting modular exponentiations, and further including a program for verifying the co-primeness of integer numbers of given length, which performs the following operations:

20 A) - calculating the modular exponentiation $a^{\lambda(b)} \bmod b$, where λ is the Carmichael function,

B) - verifying that this modular exponentiation is equal to 1,

C) - storing the pair a , b in the arithmetic processor when equality is verified, and

25 D) - reiterating steps A and B with another pair of integers when equality is not verified.

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8. A portable electronic device according to Claim 6, wherein said portable electronic device comprises a chip card with a microprocessor.